

## Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EUR-12 ARA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 /093 W

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R 271535Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062

INFO AMEMBASSY ASMARA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 00130

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AN, DM, US, OAU

SUBJ: PRES KEREKOU'S REP AT OAU SUMMIT ON ANGOLA ATTACKS USG

REF A - COTONOU 93 (NOTAL), B - COTONOU 73 (NOTAL),

1. ON JAN 26 BENIN GOVT'S OFFICIAL RADIO BROADCAST THE SPEECH MADE BY BENINS REP AT THE OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON ANGOLA, AMB TIAMIOU ADJIBADE. SINCE WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS ON THIS SPEECH, WE PRESUME THAT IT WAS MADE IN CLOSED SESSION. ADJIBADE SHARPLY ATTACKED THE USG AND PRAISED THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA. SEVERAL REFERENCES TO USG (SEE BELOW) ARE PARTICULARLY SCURRILOUS.

2. ADJIBADE SAID BENIN'S POSITION REJECTS ANY COMPROMISE SOLUTION OR GOVT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA BECAUSE IT WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE "IMPERIALISTS". "TO WANT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA (MEANING THE MPLA) IS TO BOARD THE BOAT OF ABDICATION AND ALLEGIANCE TO A SUPERPOWER, THIS SAME BOAT WHICH BENIN REFUSES TO TAKE WHATEVER  
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THE COST."

3. UNLIKE THE USUAL PRACTICE OF GOVT'S PROPAGANDA MEDIA WHICH ATTACK USG WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY NAMING IT), ABJIBADE IS VERY PRECISE IN HIS CONDEMNATION OF THE USG: "WE HAVE SEEN WITH WHAT VEHEMENCE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS VALETS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO ANNIHILATE THE GOVT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, PREFERRING TO SEE IN ITS PLACE A COLLECTION OF PUPPETS IN THEIR PAY. IT IS INDEED DISTURBING, ALARMING AND REVOLTING THAT A GREAT POWER, THIS SAME ONE THAT REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE PERTINENT SUGGESTIONS OF AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, THIS SAME ONE WHICH USES ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL AGAINST SOME AFRICAN STATES BECAUSE OF THEIR VOTES AT THE UN, THIS SAME ONE WHICH BETRAYS THE AFRICAN CAUSE BY FLYING TO THE AID OF THE VORSTER CLIQUE THROUGH THE ABUSIVE USE OF ITS RIGHT OF VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IT IS, I REPEAT, DISTURBING, ALARMING AND REVOLTING TO SAY THE LEAST, THAT CERTAIN GREAT POWERS, THROUGH UNTIMELY MESSAGES TO SOME OF US, COME TO PROFFER APPEALS AIMED AT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE GOVT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA". (THE LAST SENTENCE IS PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO OUR PROTEST AGAINST BENIN'S GRANTING LANDING FACILITIES FOR SOVIET/CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA).

4. LATER IN THE SPEECH HE AGAIN ATTACKED THE USG THOUGH THIS TIME NOT MENTIONING US BY NAME. "THE OAU", HE DECLARED, "MUST PRINCIPALLY CONDEMN THE ODIOUS INTERVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANGOLA, INTERVENTION INSTIGATED, SUPPORTED AND FINANCED BY A "SUPERPOWER" (READ USG).

5. TWICE DURING THE SPEECH HE HELD THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA UP FOR SPECIAL PRAISE FOR THEIR "DISINTERESTED AID" TO ANGOLA. THE SECOND TIME HE PROPOSED A FORMAL MOTION OF PRAISE BY THE OAU.

6. IN A LAME ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH BENIN'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND THUS LEND WEIGHT TO ITS PRAISE OF THE SOVIET UNION, ADJIBADE ALLEGED THAT BENIN AND THE USSR DIFFER ON SEVERAL POINTS IN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THESE INCLUDE UN CHARTER REVISION, LAW OF THE SEA AND DETENTE. BENIN, HE SAID, CONSIDERS "DETENTE A MANEUVER (BY THE US AND USSR) TO BETTER

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APPLY THEMSELVES TO THE RACE OF HEGEMONY."

7. COMMENT: AT ADDIS, ADJIBADE CARRIED FORWARD THE PATTERN HE SET AT THE UN OF EXTREME NASTINESS TO THE UNITED STATES. WHILE BENIN'S FIRMLY PRO-MPLA STAND HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME, IT HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN ARTICULATED AS SUPREMELY ANTI-AMERICAN IN CHARACTER. ADJIBADE'S DENUNICIATION OF DETENTE IS ALSO A NEW TWIST WHICH RUNS COUNTER TO THE LINE

PUT FORWARD TO US BY BENINESE OFFICIALS FROM PRES KEREKOU  
ON DOWN. SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE HAS OFTEN BEEN CITED TO US  
AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW "CAPITALIST" AND MARXIST STATES CAN WORK  
TOGETHER AND THEREFORE AS JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL US  
AID TO MARXIST-LENINIST BENIN.

8. RE ADJIBADE'S SURPRISING REFERENCE TO SOME USSR BENIN  
"DIFFERENCES", WE WOULD NOTE THAT, SINCE BENIN WAS DECLARED  
A MARXIST/LENINIST STATE FOURTEEN MONTHS AGO, IT HAS NEVER  
ONCE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, TAKEN A POSITION AGAINST THE SOVIET  
UNION AND/OR OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN A MULTILATERAL FORUM.

9. THIS LATEST ADJIBADE ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES SHOULD  
BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT, AT ADDIS, HE TOOK THE PLACE  
OF PRES KEREKOU AND SPOKE FOR HIM.  
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